

# CAST IRON PIPE GROUP GROUGE BUILDERS HERE FOR PIPING

Ignored City Rules and Dictated Quantity of Material to Be Used.

PILED ON 50 PER CENT.

Official Testifies That Costs Could Be Cut in Half Without Loss.

ONE RING WILL YIELD

Metal Ceiling Combine to Abandon Oppressive Methods, Untermeyer Is Told.

The cast iron pipe laid for plumbing by the members of the Eastern Soil Pipe Association was not mounded any harder than the rules which regulated and restricted its sale and which invariably brought groans from the New York builder when he received his bill for the material and work done.

Why this condition existed was shown yesterday by Samuel Untermeyer through the examination before the Lockwood committee of Charles A. Tuttle, secretary of the association and many other allied organizations in the pipe industry. Of all the organizations which have been exposed in this investigation none has been more far reaching and effective than this little pipe family.

The Metal Ceiling Association, another combination which came under fire yesterday, joined the procession of penitent monopolists on the road toward dissolution. Through the secretary, Otto C. Margraff, this association agreed to meet its way by striking from its rules the objectionable features which restrict trade.

The day's drive not only resulted in bringing down two new combinations but brought the industry from the front door of the Employers Trade Association, the "thirty-third street crowd," which controlled absolutely the whole building industry here through its binding agreement with the Brindell council and labor. The attack on the Employers Association has been saved for a spectacular close next week, when the inside of the building situation will be finished.

Fought Reduction in Plumbing.

New York was one of the worst offenders in the country in the use of pipe. The city's Board of Standards and Appeals, the highest administrative body in this municipality in dealing with building, said that the effort to substitute lighter pipe and the anti-siphon trap in plumbing, thereby cutting the cost of those materials in buildings fully 50 per cent, had been unsuccessful because of the opposition of the pipe association.

With a view to changing the city's regulations regarding plumbing and to permit the use of a lighter cast of pipe the Board of Standards held a hearing recently. Capt. Leo told the committee. Immediately thereafter the board was flooded with telegrams from all parts of the country, all worded about the same and bearing the same date, protesting against the change. The substitution in buildings of less than six inches would reduce the plumbing cost about half and would be just as efficient, he said. The pipe association became aggressive in fighting the amendment. The board ran into the same stubborn opposition, the witness testified, in seeking to legalize the use of anti-siphon traps. Following a ruling made last December that such construction could be used in this city, after tests had been made, the board learned that the master plumbers and journeymen had orders not to install the siphon traps.

City Rules Ignored.

"The master plumbers fought the adoption of the trap under the regulations of city building and have secured from the journeymen a resolution punishing by fine, perhaps expulsion, any journeyman plumber who would install it in a building in this city," Capt. Leo testified.

"You mean the Master Plumbers Association, part of the Building Trades Employers Association?" Mr. Untermeyer asked.

"I believe they are affiliated," the witness said.

"And the journeymen are members of the Building Trades Council, that is, a union that is a member of the Brindell Council?"

"I know there is such a union but I do not know of its affiliations."

"Is it a fact that use of this siphon trap would reduce largely the cost of plumbing construction?"

"That is a fact. It does away with the vent line and would eliminate a large amount of cast iron pipe in every building, as well as reduce the amount of labor in installation."

"And although that has been approved by the city the master plumbers and the union have prevented its use?"

"Yes, sir."

Good Enough for White House.

Building plans providing for the cheap construction have been approved by the building bureau, the witness said, but because of the fact that pipe manufacturers objected to cutting down the amount of their materials to be used and the unions objected to having the work of installing reduced it has been impossible in a single instance for buildings to take advantage of the city rule. This anti-siphon trap is in use in many cities, in the Congressional buildings in Washington, the White House and all the large hotels in Atlantic City. Only in New York it cannot be used. It would make a considerable item in the cost of the average house or apartment.

Apparently anxious to give the committee information and help in the investigation, Mr. Tuttle evaded and carried questions for four hours. He was one of the most illusive witnesses Mr. Untermeyer had faced on the stand during the whole investigation, and it took a long time to get a definite answer to any question. The lawyer several times lost his patience, something new for him in an examination, but Mr. Tuttle, suave and gentle, never for an instant lost his poise and seemed quite

## Mermaid Cops Will Be Clothed in Authority

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 22.—Two attractive mermaid sleuths next season will lure surf masher from the billowy waves to the city jail, if the plans of Dr. Charles Bousquet, chief beach surgeon, materialize.

Dr. Bousquet said to-day the official "vamps" would both be "clothed with authority to make arrests" and attired in "nifty" beach costumes. Four male assistants will be at their disposal if masher object to arrest, he said.

surprised when Mr. Untermeyer became

Mr. Tuttle is secretary of the Eastern Soil Pipe Association, the American Institute of Lead Manufacturers and an organization of galvanized pipe manufacturers. The Soil Pipe Association members are said to do about \$150,000,000 business a year throughout the country, which is most of the sanitary pipe industry in the country.

The members of the association pay his salary, the witness said. He added: "The members pay 10 cents a ton on their product into the Eastern Manufacturers Association, Inc."

"What is that organization?" Mr. Untermeyer asked.

"A corporation in which my wife and I hold all the stock. We also put in all the funds to be used for family investment."

The Pipe Association held meetings two or three times a year and kept its minutes on loose leaf sheets, the witness said. Mr. Untermeyer tried to find out all about the funds in the corporation owned by the witness and his wife.

"It is not strange that we think the corporation is not so innocent and harmless a family matter as you would have us think, is it?"

"If there is anything wrong in it we shall be glad to disorganize it immediately," the witness said.

"But it is not a private family affair at all, is it?"

"I think so."

"I know better," Mr. Untermeyer snapped out angrily. "We are going to see what it is whether you help us or not."

Checks were offered showing that the witness had an account with a Wall Street brokerage concern. The checks passed through the banks in the name of his stenographer, the witness said, because the brokers would not honor the certified paper of a corporation. Mr. Tuttle finally recalled that the association did have a legislative committee which was active in Pennsylvania in trying to prevent legislation affecting terra cotta pipe being used for building sewers.

Price Fixing by Discounts.

The Central Foundry Company and the Somerville Iron Works are two of the largest concerns in the association, Mr. Tuttle said. The Central has an office in the same building with the association. Mr. Untermeyer tried long and hard to establish that the Central dominates the entire association and fixes prices.

Mr. Untermeyer put in evidence a letter sent out by the president of the Central company urging members of the association to help defeat the proposed legislation. It had a fund for advertising and employed agents to combat changes in the building code, such as was proposed in New York in the interest of cheaper construction.

The Central Foundry Company handled all the discount changes in prices for the ten members of the association, the witness admitted, up to June last, when the system of price changes was stopped because of action taken by the attorney under the anti-trust law.

The association established a boycott on mail order houses which were trying to undersell the members and likewise refused to sell to purchasing companies which might break into the business.

"Your plan was for the Central Foundry to set the pace and for others to follow on prices, was it not?" Mr. Untermeyer asked. Mr. Tuttle said he thought not and insisted the system was to effect "price changes," not "price fixing."

"The Central Company in most instances set the change in price and notified you and you notified the other members and then they changed their prices accordingly and notified you?" Mr. Untermeyer asked.

"I wouldn't say they all did," the witness fessed.

"Don't you know the price of pipe has increased 200 per cent since 1916?"

"I do not."

"Do you know how many hundred per cent it has advanced?"

"I do not."

"That price list was not changed, the discounts were changed, is that it?"

"That's right."

"Isn't this whole business of discounts a perfect fake to disguise price fixing?" Mr. Untermeyer demanded, again becoming angry. The witness quietly wanted to argue, but the lawyer called a sharp halt. Mr. Tuttle told of a meeting recently at which the members of the Southern Pipe Association were in attendance. The latter organization was disbanded and in theory, at least, went out of business.

Roofing Men Ready to Quit.

Otto C. Margraff, secretary of the Metal Roofing Association, joined the retreating ranks of building combinations when he stated, after being under fire on the stand for some time, that his organization was ready to mend its ways and come within the law by opening the way to competition. He announced that his association was prepared to amend the by-laws which Mr. Untermeyer denounced as "despotic and un-American."

Extracts from the by-laws read by counsel provided for advancing the interests of members by trade agreements which were "deemed advisable" and stipulating, among other things, that no member could complete a job begun by another member who had quit because of a dispute with the builder. Manufacturers were forced to join this association in order to get a preference in employing union labor and to pay tribute to the Building Trades Employers Association for "protection in strikes and lockouts."

Referring to the rule which forbade members of the combination ever touching a job one of their number had undertaken, Mr. Untermeyer asked:

"Did not that increase the difficulty and cost of building where metal ceilings were used?"

"That was not our intention," the witness answered.

"Oh, hell, is paved with intentions; was it not unfair and arrogant interference with free competition?"

"It would seem so."

Mr. Margraff admitted that a percentage of gross receipts of the members of the Metal Ceiling Association were paid annually to the Building Trades Employers Association, in thirty-third street.

"What do you get by paying these fees?" Mr. Untermeyer asked.

"I understand it is a reserve fund for protection in labor difficulties."

"Isn't it rather a payment for a monopoly on union labor?"

"I had not thought of it in that way."

"Isn't it a most despotic and un-American arrangement that if a man wants to take a job in the building industry, he must join this Building Trades Employers Association and pay tribute before he can get workers?"

"I suppose it is," the witness admitted, apologetically.

## 'RAID' AIN'T FAIR, -- GAMBLER IN NASSAU

'Sheriff Gave Us 15 Minutes, and You Crash In in 5.' Was Stuckey's Reported Pleint.

SLEUTH TELLS OF TRIP

County Officials in Defence

Will Say They Warned

Gamblers to Close Up.

It will be the defence of the Nassau county officials being tried in the Supreme Court at Mineola on the charge that they conspired to protect gamblers from the law. That while they knew the gamblers and their associates were in the county and transacted with them, they warned them often to close up their establishments and in most communications with them only repeated warnings given before.

This defence was outlined yesterday after the prosecution rested its case and counsel for the defendants told the jury where each man stood and what evidence would be offered to clear him. Henry A. Uterhart, chief counsel for the accused officials, said he would show that practically all communications had with the gamblers were in plain speech and in public and by way of assistance to Charles R. Weeks, District Attorney.

Of the original five men indicted only three remain on trial, Joseph Cassidy, one-time Borough President of Queens and former Democratic boss there, died a little more than a month ago. Yesterday the indictment against Postmaster Thomas H. O'Keefe of Oyster Bay was dismissed. District Attorney Weeks consented to its dismissal because no testimony had been presented involving O'Keefe. There remain on trial only Assemblyman Thomas A. McWhiskey, Supervisor G. Wilbur Doughty and Sheriff Charles W. Smith.

The State's main witness yesterday was Allen O. Meyers, a detective employed by the William J. Burns Agency. Meyers contended that when a raiding party went to John Stuckey's gambling house in East Rockaway Sheriff Smith detached himself from it long enough to enter a drug store and telephone to Stuckey.

Meyers told how the Sheriff complained of a severe attack of cramps and that the raiders' automobile reached Stuckey's. His mainy, Meyers said, seized him just after the information had been given to him that Stuckey's was to be visited.

"As soon as he heard the name," Meyers insisted, "he exclaimed, 'My God, not that place,' and a few minutes later insisted that he was ill and had the car stop at a drug store. He came out a few minutes and we proceeded. When we entered Stuckey's the first thing Stuckey said was:

"Say, this ain't fair. The Sheriff said we could have fifteen minutes to get our stuff under cover and here you crash in inside of five."

The cross examination brought out that Meyers has lived in many cities and has met all sorts and conditions of men. He admitted that he had gathered local color in the saloon of Paddy the Pig in this city, and that he knew Big Bill Heywood and one John Stiner, "a safe blow and yegg."

Red Leary and Red Dillon and Butch Mulligan. "But," as Meyers told the court, "a working detective does not spend his whole time in drawing room."

Meyers was confronted with five former policemen of Wilkesbarre, Pa., who averred that they would be unable to believe him on oath. All agreed afterward that he had investigated them as a detective on behalf of the Wilkesbarre Chamber of Commerce.

Justice J. Addison Young, presiding at the trial, said that if the case is the Government of Latvia, one of the small nations carved out of former Russia, for the passage of the deportees through the country and into Russia. The sending of these is not the least an experiment, it was explained. They may be the advance guard of one or two hundred more now in the United States on bond.

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## COURT TO LIFT SANTA BAN ON TRIO OF JERSEY BOYS

Appeal of Elks Heeded by Recorder, Who Decides to Modify Early to Bed Sentence and Christmas Gloom to Exclude Holidays.

It looked for a long time as if Christmas was going to be just one more day—and a frightfully gloomy and miserable day at that—in the lives of the three little West Orange, N. J., boys who were sentenced by Recorder John B. Lander to bed at 6:30 o'clock every night for a month because they had been wicked and smashed windows and committed several petty thefts. And more than that, the Recorder told them that he was going to write to Santa Claus and tell the old gentleman to keep away from the houses in which these boys lived and not bring them any Christmas presents. And he did write, too.

But now it begins to look as if the boys had something to live for after all. Recorder Lander during the last few days has received many letters from all over the country imploring him to rescind the sentence to the extent of allowing the boys to participate in the Christmas festivities and get a few presents to lessen the punishment of their hearts. Finally, after he had received a letter of that sort from the New Jersey Elks Association, through their president, Fletcher L. Pritts, the Recorder decided to lessen the punishment of the boys. He wouldn't commit himself definitely yesterday, but it is understood well enough that on Friday he will write to Santa Claus and tell him that after

all he can pay his usual visit to their homes. But the boys still will have to go to bed early except on Christmas Eve and Christmas night.

The letter sent to Recorder Lander by Mr. Pritts said:

"Appeals have been made to me as president of the New Jersey Elks Association by Elks throughout the State relative to a sentence you gave to boys who were alleged to have committed petty larceny. The sentence, as I understand it, put them to bed at 6:30 every night for a month, Christmas Eve and Christmas night included, and they shall not receive Christmas presents. I am inclined to think the 6:30 to bed punishment is a good thing, and perhaps may have a better effect than anything you could have done, but my appeal to you is that you relax to the extent that you will permit them to have the enjoyment of Christmas Eve and Christmas night."

"In the name of the Elks of the State of New Jersey, who are doing so much for their respective communities for their little brother the boy, and are doing their utmost to see that every child shall have the realization of a joyful Christmas, I appeal to you to give these youngsters that chance."

The three boys who have been under sentence, were told last night that in all likelihood they would be allowed to have Christmas after all. After a long study they collaborated on a statement to the world.

"Gee!" they said.

COMMUNISTS GLAD  
TO SAIL FOR RUSSIA

Twenty-four Ordered Deported  
Start for Libau on the Im-

perator To-day.

Ever since the soil of the United States of America was, legally speaking, suddenly removed from under the feet of twenty-four alleged or avowed Communists here from Russia, the Communists have been yearning to go back to Russia, they let it be known yesterday.

Consequently when the steamship Imperator sailed to-day for Libau, Latvia and Southampton the Communists, they say, will be just as glad to get rid of the United States as the United States is to get rid of the Communists.

Many months ago the men and one woman in the batch of twenty-four were removed officially from this country by the approving and signing of warrants of deportation by Louis B. Ford, assistant Secretary of Labor. Actually, however, they stayed right here on \$1,000 bond each owing to the difficulties attendant on deporting them to a country whose Government this country has not recognized and has no dealings with. They were not sufficiently important to be sent home to Russia in a "Soviet ark," and no vessels, of course, sailed for Soviet Russia.

According to Miss Rose Welles, their attorney, the actual orders of deportation on the Imperator were issued by the immigration officials at Washington only after the group of twenty-four part. Her clients, she said, desired to go back to Russia because they were tired of work, their friends' money was tied up in bonds and the suspense of being officially deported and actually sent was terrible.

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"Transportation has been provided for this